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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/452,328 | 11/30/1999 | SWAIN W. PORTER | 003646.P009 | 1160 |

25943 7590 07/31/2002
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EXAMINER

JOHNSON, MARLON B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/452,328

Applicant(s)

PORTER, SWAIN W.

Examiner

Marlon Johnson

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 November 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 1999 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Art Unit: 2153

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or

(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

4. Claims 1-3, 6-10, 18, 21, 22, 25-27, and 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al (6,212,517).

In considering claim 1,

Sato et al. discloses an automated method for assisting a user of a client system in retrieving and browsing information, comprising:

Retrieving and displaying on a display (Fig. 1, 50) of the client system a first information page (document text) responsive to user direction (Fig. 1, Input Device 60) (see col. 3, lines 51-57; Fig. 7, Step 312; Fig. 13, Step 317); and

Additionally displaying on the display a plurality of dynamically assembled information source identifiers identifying a plurality of information sources for user selection (various information – e.g., retrieval results, related keywords, etc.) wherein the information source identifiers are dynamically assembled, based at least in part on dynamically determined content of said first information page (see col. 3, lines 51-57; Fig. 7, Steps 320 and 330).

Art Unit: 2153

In considering claim 2,

Sato et al. discloses a method wherein said additionally displaying comprises performing on said client system in real time, analysis of the first information page to determine presence of first keywords (see col. 4, lines 29-33; Fig. 7, Step 314).

In considering claims 6 and 7,

Sato et al. discloses a method wherein said additional displaying further comprises performing on said client system in real time, retrieval of second keywords related to the presence ones of first keywords from one or more tables of related keywords on said client system, using said presence ones of first keywords, which further comprises retrieval of information source identifiers (W_{N+1} , WO_{M+1}) identifying information sources having information associated with the second keywords from one or more information source tables on said client system, using said second keywords (see col. 4, lines 37-50; col. 11, lines 39-44; Fig. 7, Steps 340 & 350).

In considering claim 8,

Sato et al. discloses a method wherein said one or more tables of information sources must inherently be loaded/downloaded onto the client system.

In considering claim 9,

Sato et al. discloses a method wherein said additional displaying further comprises performing on the client system in real time, assembly of the plurality of information source identifiers (word ID W_j , word occurrence WO , total word occurrence TWO) dynamically identified based at least in part on presence ones of first keywords in said information page.

Art Unit: 2153

In considering claim 10,

Sato et al. discloses a method wherein said additional displaying comprises performing on the client system in real time, transmission to a server (Fig. 14, 1a) a selected one of (a) a locator of the first information page, (b) a plurality of unique nouns of the first information page, (c) a plurality of first keywords present in the first information page, and (d) a plurality of second keywords related to the first keywords (see Fig. 7).

In considering claim 18, 21, 22, 25, and 30,

Sato et al. discloses an automated method in a server system (see Fig. 14; col. 12, lines 55-61) for facilitating provision of assistance to a user of a networked client system to retrieve and browse information, the method comprising:

Receiving from said client system dynamically determined related first keywords of presence ones of second keywords, unique nouns, and a locator (Fig. 2, Document Database 70) of a first information page being browsed on said client system (see col. 4, lines 29-33, lines 37-50); and

In response, providing to said client system a plurality of information source identifiers identifying a plurality of information sources, based at least in part on said received related first keywords (see col. 4, lines 37-50; col. 11, lines 39-44); and

Dynamically determining related second keywords of said presence ones of first keywords; and said providing of information source identifiers to said

Art Unit: 2153

client system is made based at least in part on said dynamically determined related second keywords (see Fig. 7).

In considering claims 26, 27, 31, and 32,

Sato et al. discloses a method further comprising dynamically determining presence ones of a first keyword in said information page using said received unique nouns; and said providing of information source identifiers to said client system is made based at least in part on said dynamically determined presence ones of first keywords, which further comprises dynamically determining related second keywords of said presence ones of first keywords; and said providing of information source identifiers to said client system is further made based at least in part on said dynamically determined related second keywords (see col. 4, lines 29-33, lines 37-50; col. 11, lines 39-44).

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 4, 5, 11-17, 19, 20, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 33-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. as applied to claims 1, 3, 18, 21, 25, and 30 above, and further in view of Angiulo et al (6,275,829).

In considering claims 4 and 5, although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose designating a browser of the client system to

Art Unit: 2153

perform the substantial features of the claimed invention. However, Angiulo et al., whose invention relates to allowing a user to automatically introduce a thumbnail image into a Web page to represent an original image, discloses such a browser (for viewing a web page) (see col. 6, lines 33-35). Therefore, given the teachings of Angiulo et al., a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to execute a web-based search request.

In considering claims 12, 15, 19, 23, 28, and 30, although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose displaying a thumbnail of the first or second information page. However, Angiulo et al. discloses such a thumbnail display of an information page (image) (see col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, line 1). Therefore, given the teachings of Angiulo et al., a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to view thumbnails of the each search result.

In considering claims 13, 16, 20, 24, 29, and 34, although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose dithering of the first or second information pages into a thumbnail, for display. However, Angiulo et al. discloses such a thumbnail display of an information page (see col. 5, lines 65-67; col. 6, line 1). Therefore, given the teachings of Angiulo et al., a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to view a thumbnail of the returned searches all on one page.

In considering claims 14 and 17, although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose displaying a thumbnail in response to the

Art Unit: 2153

placement of a cursor next to a first information identifier corresponding to a first information source. However, Angiulo et al. discloses such a thumbnail display of an information page in response to the placement of a cursor. (see Figs. 2 and 3). Therefore, given the teachings of Angiulo et al., a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to make a specific action with the mouse cursor in order to display the thumbnails.

In considering claims 35, 37, 39 and 40,

Sato et al. discloses a server system, which is inherently coupled to a network through a network interface, and further comprising:

An information source database (Fig. 7, Step 354) having a first plurality of keywords and a plurality of associated information source identifiers to facilitate augmented provision by a coupled client system dynamically assembled information source identifiers, based at least in part on dynamically determined content of a first retrieved information page being browsed on said client system (see Fig. 14, col. 12, lines 55-61); and

A keyword database (Fig. 7, Step 354), having a second plurality of keywords and said first plurality of keywords, the first keywords being related to said second keywords, to facilitate determination of presence ones of first keywords in said first retrieved information page being viewed, and to facilitate determination of related second keywords of said presence ones of first keywords (note: the keywords from a first, second, or a specified number of query search

request made by the user can all be stored in Step 354) (see col. 4, lines 37-50; 7, lines 35-37; col. 11, lines 39-44).

Although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose designating a browser of the client system to perform the substantial features of the claimed invention. However, Angiulo et al., whose invention relates to allowing a user to automatically introduce a thumbnail image into a Web page to represent an original image, discloses such a browser (for viewing a web page) (see col. 6, lines 33-35). Therefore, given the teachings of Angiulo et al., a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to execute a web-based search request.

In considering claims 38 and 42, although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose dithering module to dither the second retrieved information page into a thumbnail, for display. However, Angiulo et al. discloses such a dithering module (see Fig. 4, block 108). Therefore, given the teachings of Angiulo et al., a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to view a thumbnail of the returned searches all on one page.

7. Claims 36 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. as applied to claims 35 and 39 above, and further in view of Gilmour (6,377,949).

In considering claims 36 and 41, Although Sato et al. shows substantial features of the claimed invention, he fails to specifically disclose a browser to facilitate viewing of a first retrieved information page, as well as using a lexical analyzer to facilitate determination of

unique nouns in the first retrieved information page. However, Gilmour, whose invention discloses a method of assigning a confidence level to a term within an electronic document, discloses such a browser (Fig. 1, Browser Client 16) and lexical analyzer (Fig. 2, Lexicon Controller 45c; col. 9, lines 46-53) (Fig. 2, Lexicon Database 49; col. 14, lines 49-55).

Therefore, given the teachings of Gilmour, a person having ordinary skills in the art would have recognized the advantages of modifying Sato et al. for the purpose of allowing a user to execute a web-based search request, in addition to allowing the search to compare the users' query with the words of a language and their definitions.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure (Himmel et al. 6314423, Williamowski 6381598, Paulsen Jr. et al. 6078917, Wu 5991756, Peercy et al. 5960429, Smiga et al. 6029171, Kirsch 5659732).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marlon Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-4642. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glen Burgess, can be reached on (703) 305-4792. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 305-3230.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Marlon B. Johnson



Dung C. Dinh
Primary Examiner

Application/Control Number: 09/452,328

Page 10 of 10

Art Unit: 2153

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